

primarily about Mr. Junell's legislative accomplishments and his personal background.

But just for the committee's information I first met Mr. Junell about 20 years ago when I was a young lawyer and he and I happened to be on the opposite side of a lawsuit. You learn a lot about the character and the competence of your adversary in those circumstances, and I wanted the Committee to know and the record to reflect the high regard in which I personally hold Mr. Junell as a lawyer, as a person, and a person who has devoted many years of his life to public service already, and who I know will do an outstanding job on the Federal Bench.

And also his wife, Beverly, who is here with him today. It seems like, Mr. Junell, you were introduced a long time ago, but just for a refresher and to add my comments and congratulations to you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for that opportunity.

Chairman HATCH. Thank you, Senator.

We will begin with Judge Adams, and then Judge Otero, and then Mr. Junell. And if you have any statements to make, we would be happy to take them, and if you would, introduce anyone who is accompanying you here.

**STATEMENT OF JOHN ADAMS, NOMINEE TO BE DISTRICT
JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO**

Judge ADAMS. Senator, first of all, I would like to thank the Committee for allowing us this hearing this late day. I know it has been a long day for you. We greatly appreciate it. I greatly appreciate the courtesy in being permitted to be heard today.

I want to acknowledge my former law partner who is here today, Mr. Philip Kaufman, as Senator DeWine has acknowledged him.

I additionally would like to acknowledge my father who could not be here today due to his age, somewhat age and somewhat unwillingness to travel here today, and acknowledge the memory of my mother who passed away some time ago and could not be here. I am sure she would be quite proud. And once again, thank you, Senator, for your courtesy.

Chairman HATCH. Well, thank you, Judge. Appreciate it. Judge Otero?

**STATEMENT OF S. JAMES OTERO, NOMINEE TO BE DISTRICT
JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

Judge OTERO. Thank you, Senator. I just want to thank the Committee for having me here. I am very honored. I would like to thank Senator Leahy and Senator Feinstein for the gracious statements made earlier today, and also to Senator Boxer for her written statement provided to the committee.

I would like to thank my family who is back there for being here, and also my parents who could not be here today because of health concerns.

Chairman HATCH. Introduce your family to us.

Judge OTERO. My wife Jill is here.

Chairman HATCH. Jill.

Judge OTERO. And my daughter Lauren.

Chairman HATCH. Lauren.

Judge OTERO. And my son, Evan.

Chairman HATCH. Evan. Happy to have you with us as well.

Judge OTERO. Thank you.

Chairman HATCH. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Junell?

**STATEMENT OF ROBERT JUNELL, NOMINEE TO BE DISTRICT
JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

Mr. JUNELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is indeed an honor to be here today. I want to thank both you and Senator Leahy for allowing us to be here for this hearing, and I want to thank Senator Hutchison and Senator Cornyn, the two Senators for Texas that said such nice things.

My wife Beverly is here with a crutch from knee surgery. She hurt the other one, Senator, at Snowbird about 10 years ago in your state.

Chairman HATCH. Oh, my goodness. That is not good.

Mr. JUNELL. And this time it was in New Mexico, so she recently had surgery.

Senator LEAHY. Should have skied in Vermont.

[Laughter.]

Chairman HATCH. No, no, that is worse there. It is just plain ice there. We at least have powder snow.

Mr. JUNELL. My son, Ryan, who is in California, could not be with us. My daughter Keith is the Peace Corps in Bolivia, and my son Clay is a student at Angelo State University in San Angelo.

Chairman HATCH. Well, we are honored to have all of you with us, and we again apologize for this taking so long, but it is the nature of this place. Every once in a while it does take a little bit of time, so please forgive us.

I think we will begin with Senator Leahy. He has been so patient all day, I am going to turn to him first, and then whatever questions he does not ask, maybe the rest of us can.

Senator LEAHY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to be brief. The level of controversy is a lot different here.

Judge Adams, you have been actively involved in partisan politics on behalf of your fellow Republicans. You served as an elected official. You have contributed to Republican campaigns. You have volunteered on campaigns. You have run for city council. All of which is perfectly appropriate, but when you go to the Federal Bench, you have no problem with the fact that partisan activity then is—it is gone; is that correct?

Judge ADAMS. Absolutely, Senator, and I think as a common police court judge my record will establish that that has certainly been the case while on the bench.

Senator LEAHY. Thank you. And you assure us that if somebody walked into your court, if you are confirmed, that they would not have to worry about whether they were the right political party or the wrong political party; they would just have to worry that Judge Adams reads the law correctly?

Judge ADAMS. Absolutely, Senator. You can rest assured in that regard, please.

Senator LEAHY. In private practice you specialized in estate planning and trust and probate law. You had a special emphasis on providing service to senior citizens and people with mental and